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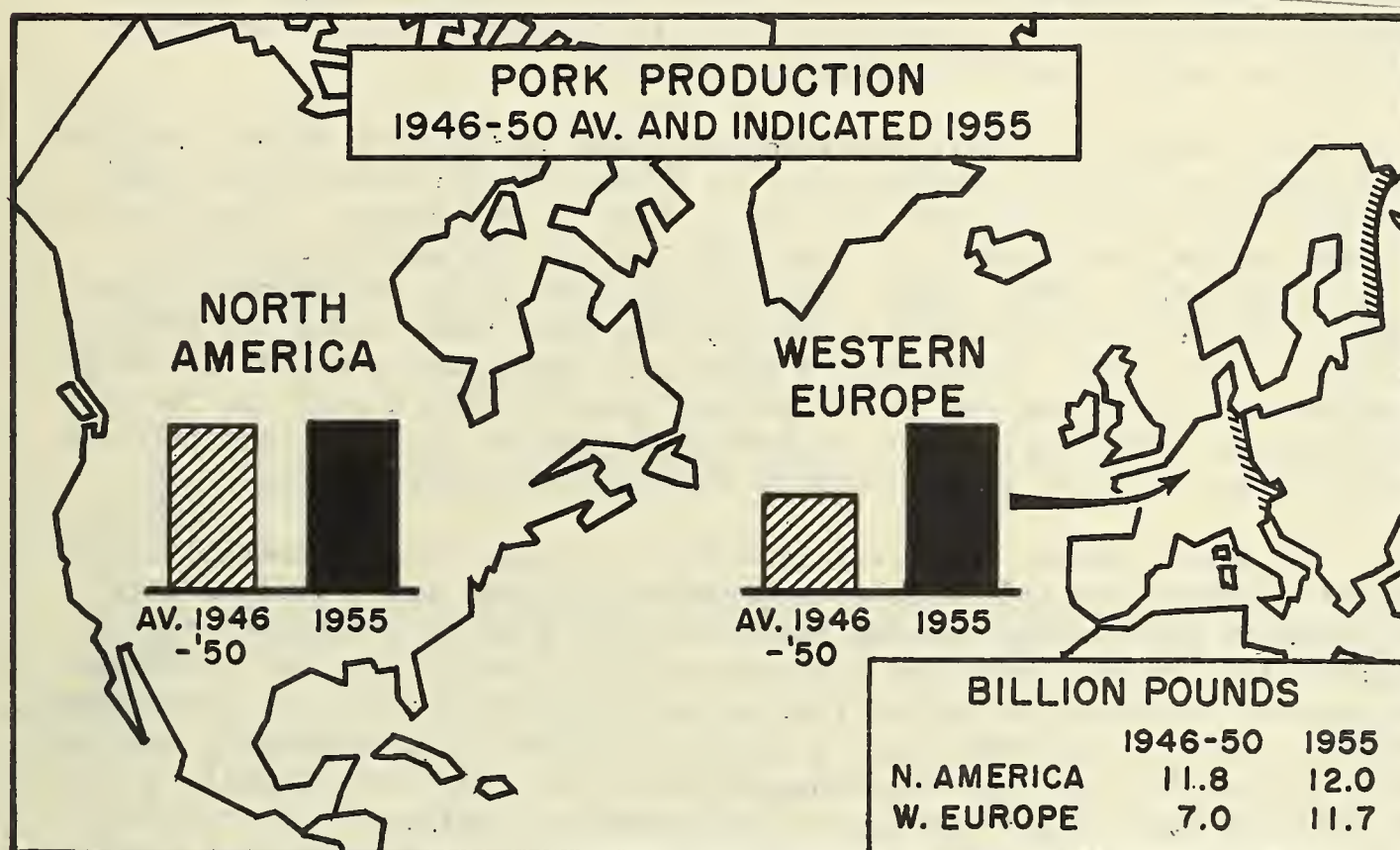
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HOG SLAUGHTER IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES (Prospective 1955 with Comparisons)

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Since the end of World War II pork output in Western Europe has continued to increase each year and per capita supplies of pork and of all meats have increased substantially in most countries. A further moderate increase in pork production in 1955 will increase the competition against United States producers for sales in the Caribbean area and other traditional export markets. Continued large exports to the United States are probable.

A moderate increase in pork output in North America is expected during 1955 but production will only be slightly above the high level of 1946-50.

Moderate increases in pork production are in prospect for 1955 in North America, Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand, according to the regular annual analysis of hog production and slaughter prospects recently completed by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

The increased pork output is expected to result in generally lower prices in many of the important producing countries. Pork supplies in the United Kingdom, the world's largest importer, will be very large due to a record home production and large imports under its bacon contracts with principal supplying countries. The European surplus producers and Australia and New Zealand will offer increased competition against the larger United States output for sales to deficit countries in the Caribbean area and other United States export markets. Larger pork supplies from Western Europe will be available for importation by the United States, and even with lower prices in the United States, the European countries will continue to look to the United States as one of the better markets for their surplus production.

Hog slaughter in North America next year is expected to be considerably above the 1946-50 average and 6 to 8 percent above the recent low reached in 1954, but will be well below other recent years. Slaughter in Western Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand probably will reach the highest levels since World War II. Slaughter in Western Europe likely will be 3 to 5 percent above 1954 and more than double the 1946-50 average. The number killed in the principal producing countries of South America during 1955 may be 7 to 9 percent greater than a year earlier. Slaughter in Australia and New Zealand will probably total 4 to 6 percent greater than in 1954, with increases expected in both countries.

Larger slaughter next year is a direct result of the generally high prices of pork and lard in late 1953 and during 1954 and plentiful feed supplies in important producing countries. Feed grain production this year in the United States was 2 percent greater than a year ago and large supplies will be available for feeding next year from the large accumulated stocks. Feed grain production in Europe this year is considerably smaller than during 1953 but much rain-damaged wheat and rye which normally would be used for food will be available for livestock feeding. The level of hog production in future years will depend largely upon the course of hog prices and the amount of feed grain produced. Further substantial increases in production in Western Europe from year to year do not seem probable in view of the current high levels of production and the limited potentials for increased feed production. But hog production in the United States could reach substantially higher levels with average feed grain harvests and strong demand for pork and lard.

North America, Western Europe and China are the most important hog raising areas in the world. Output in North America during 1953 totaled over 11 billion pounds and was probably more than 25 percent of the world total, including China. Production in Western Europe accounted for around

HOGS: Number slaughtered (commercial or inspected) in specified countries, calendar year, average 1946-50, annual 1952-1955

Continent and Country	Average		1952		1953		Preliminary: Indicated		Percent	
	1946-50	1952	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	1954	1955	1954 of 1953	1955 of 1954
NORTH AMERICA										
Canada 1/	4,341	6,234			4,611	3,950	4,850		86	123
Mexico 2/	1,976	1,850			2,000	2,300			115	-
United States - Inspected	50,224	62,451			53,813	53,800	58,000		100	108
- Total 3/	75,049	86,712			74,783	74,000	79,000		99	107
Cuba 4/	332	248			-	-	-		-	-
EUROPE										
Austria 5/	1,011	2,054			2,209	2,350	2,550		106	109
Belgium 5/	1,173	2,190			2,198	2,150	2,200		98	102
Denmark 4/	2,599	4,868			6,244	6,900	6,800		111	99
Finland 1/	223	-			-	-	-		-	-
France 1/	3,980	5,867			6,748	6,500	6,500		96	100
Germany, Western 4/	4,037	9,357			10,080	9,100	9,600		90	105
Ireland 4/	531	703			1,046	1,250	1,300		120	104
Italy 8/	1,832	2,358			2,236	2,400	2,300		107	96
Netherlands 5/	1,367	2,500			2,600	2,800	3,200		108	114
Norway 1/	170	404			445	-	-		-	-
Portugal 1/	318	433			453	-	-		-	-
Spain 5/	100	252			9/10/ 326	-	-		-	-
Sweden 2/	1,707	2,163			2,403	2,595	2,800		108	108
Switzerland 2/	702	1,029			1,123	-	-		-	-
United Kingdom 4/ 11/	1,707	5,673			6,651	8,200	8,700		123	106
ASIA										
Japan 4/	435	1,526			1,943	-	-		-	-
Philippines 2/ 7/	958	1,400			1,500	-	-		-	-
SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina 1/	1,409	965			1,209	850	1,200		70	141
Brazil 4/	5,250	6,140			6,207	6,200	6,500		100	105
Colombia 4/	669	-			699	-	-		-	-
Uruguay 1/	140	105			122	149	-		122	-
AFRICA										
Union of South Africa 4/	644	728			629	600	580		95	97
OCEANIA										
Australia 4/	1,584	1,466			1,484	1,650	1,750		111	106
New Zealand 4/	636	683			654	751	760		115	101

1/ Inspected slaughter. 2/ Total slaughter. 3/ Including farm. 4/ Commercial slaughter. 5/ Total official slaughter. 6/ Average for 4 years only. 7/ Average for 2 years only. 8/ Slaughter in towns of more than 5,000 persons. 9/ Slaughtering in cities with more than 20,000 persons; Includes peninsula of Spain, Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands. 10/ First 10 months latest data available. 11/ Great Britain only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers and other information.--October, 1954.

10 billion pounds. Output in the principal South American countries was estimated at around 1 billion and production in Australia and New Zealand totaled only 281 million pounds.

Total hog slaughter in the United States in 1954 probably will total around 74 million head, slightly smaller than a year earlier and the smallest since 1948. A substantial increase for 1955 is indicated. The 1954 spring pig crop was 13 percent greater than a year earlier, and showed the first increase in production since 1951. The 1954 fall pig crop was indicated to be about 10 percent greater than a year earlier on the basis of farmers intentions for fall breeding and later reports indicate that the crop may be even larger. The ratio of hog prices to feed prices now is slightly above average.

Hog production in Canada has shown trends similar to the United States. Slaughter in 1954 will be the smallest in several years. However, production increased sharply in 1954 and slaughter in 1955 will be considerably greater. The 1954 spring pig crop was estimated to be 16 percent greater than that of 1953 and an even larger percentage increase is indicated for the fall crop. The total pig crop in Canada during 1954 probably will be the largest since 1944. Hog slaughter in Mexico is at a relatively high level.

Increased hog slaughter and pork production is expected in several Western European countries in 1955. Fairly large increases are expected in Austria, Western Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Smaller increases are in prospect for Belgium. Not much change is likely in France and Denmark but slaughter in Italy is forecast to be smaller than in 1954.

Hog prices in Belgium in 1954 have been much higher than a year earlier, and slaughter somewhat lower. This year's production of grain, potatoes and beet crops will be considerably below average and below 1953 which will limit the increase in hog production.

Hog production in Denmark continues at a high level and exports have been large. The July 17, 1954 census reported 4,879,000 hogs on farms, 13 percent more than a year earlier. Despite the large slaughter hog prices have continued relatively favorable to producers. A new bacon contract with the United Kingdom which has recently been completed points to a relatively stable level of hog prices during the coming year. However, crop production this year is down considerably which will tend to limit the increase in hog production. Denmark is the largest exporter of pork products in the world.

Hog slaughter in France during the first half of 1954 was down slightly from a year earlier but prices were materially higher than a year ago.

Pork production in Western Germany declined in 1954 for the first time since the end of the war. However, hog numbers increased in 1954, and another increase is expected in 1955. A March 3 census showed a moderate upturn in hog numbers, particularly breeding sows, and an increase in the hog production cycle is now under way. Western Germany is the largest producer of pork in Western Europe, but in recent years has been importing more meat than it has exported.

Hog slaughter in the Netherlands continues to increase. During the first half of 1954 it was 5 percent greater than a year earlier. Prices continued relatively high despite the large number killed.

Reduced pork prices in Norway in late 1953 and early 1954 led to severe shortages and the government allowed limited imports of bacon from Denmark and fatbacks from the United States to increase consumer supplies. However, current breeding statistics show that an increase in pork production is now underway.

Hog production is on the upturn in Sweden. Large grain crops in 1953 and relatively favorable hog-feed price ratios encouraged a 17 percent increase in sow numbers (April 20, 1954 census). The 1954 coarse grain crops are likely to be smaller than a year ago, but larger amounts of rain-damaged wheat and rye will be available for feeding. Prices of feed and livestock products are under government control and the prices fixed for 1955 favor increased hog production. January-June slaughter this year was up 7 percent from 1953. The government is encouraging marketing of hogs at lighter weights and has increased price discounts for heavy hogs. Accordingly some further decrease in average dressed weights is indicated.

Hog slaughter in Switzerland reached a postwar high in 1952 but declined in 1953 and 1954. A partial livestock census in April 1954 indicated a 7 percent decline in hogs on farms and this is showing up in reduced hog slaughter at the present time. The high level of pork production and lower hog prices are discouraging further expansion in hog breeding.

Pork supplies in the United Kingdom continue to increase. The government is encouraging production by subsidy payments and price support programs and hog production and slaughter have continued to establish new high levels each year. Hog slaughter during 1954 is expected to be 20 to 25 percent greater than during 1953. A further moderate increase is expected next year.

Increased hog numbers in Argentina and Brazil will be reflected in increased slaughter during 1955. Higher prices and larger feed grain output are encouraging larger production.

Larger pork output in the Southern Dominions will increase the competition for the United Kingdom market in the face of larger production in western Europe. Breeding intention reports indicate a 25 percent increase above a year earlier in farrowings in Australia for the 1954 spring crop and this increase will show up in slaughter in the second half of 1955. Slaughter during early 1954 was greater than a year earlier. The number of hogs on farms June 1 was over a third larger than a year earlier.

Marketings in 1954-55 will be the largest in several years. The number of hogs on farms in New Zealand January 31, was 3 percent greater than a year earlier. Another increase is in prospect during 1954.

Hog production in the Union of South Africa continues to decline. Slaughter in 1954 was the lowest in several years and further decrease is expected for 1955. Other crops and livestock continue to be more profitable than hog production in view of the difficulty and high cost of producing feed grains.

Hog production and slaughter in Japan and the Philippines have shown very large increases since the end of World War II. Practically all of the pork produced in these countries is consumed locally.

A summary of this information appeared in the October 25, 1954 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of U. S. foreign agricultural officers.